



CSP Job Sheet EPL46

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plant Management Enhancement Activities

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers a new enhancement activity opportunity to reward or encourage the increased health and vigor of plants by managing the sugarbush acres with a minimum 25% non sugar maple species for the purpose of reducing intensities of disease and pest outbreaks. This enhancement is available once the applicant qualifies for CSP by meeting the program's entry requirements for soil and water quality.

The following information will help landowners and managers determine if they are eligible for the offered payment(s) for this water quality enhancement activity.

MAINTAINING A MINIMUM 25% NON SUGAR MAPLE SPECIES

A monoculture is a preferred target for insect defoliators. Recent studies, in progress at the University of Vermont, indicate that maintaining a diversity of species in the canopy of the forest can significantly reduce the impact of harmful insects during major outbreaks. One such outbreak is currently underway in Vermont. According to a report from the State of Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation, in 2005, Forest Tent Caterpillar was widespread, especially in the southern counties of Vermont, with over 230,000 acres defoliated. Aerial spraying with pesticides is expensive, restricted by environmental concerns in many areas, and minimally effective. Insect populations are increasing and the area defoliated in 2006 is expected to be greater than in 2005.

Through this enhancement, participants are encouraged to preserve the co-occurrence of tree species in the maple stands by maintaining a minimum of 25% non sugars species such as American beech, yellow birch, white ash, and red spruce to avoid a tree monoculture.

Because tree species take more than five to ten years to mature (the minimum and maximum years of a CSP contract), this enhancement will qualify to participants who are maintaining this enhancement during the benchmark inventory of the CSP application process.

A minimum 25% non sugar species needs to either be determined by a certified forester or outlined in the participant's forest management plan that this exists.



Example of a maple monoculture



Example of a multi species sugarbush

Documentation Required: Attach a plan map showing the field locations where a minimum 25% non sugar maple species is being managed. Include your forest management plan, highlighting where this exists.

Maintaining a Minimum 25% non Sugar Maple Species Certification

I certify that I have been managing my sugarbush with a minimum of 25% non sugar maple species within my enrolled sugarbush acres, which can be viewed on the attached plan map and in my forest management plan or by my certified forester.

Name: _____ Date: _____